

# Governor's STEM Academy Brief



Office of Career and Technical Education Services

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The purpose of this monthly brief is to provide information, resources, and a networking vehicle to support the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Academies in Virginia

## GOVERNOR'S STEM ACADEMIES SPOTLIGHT

### Incentive Mini-Grants for New Governor's STEM Academies in School Year 2012-2013

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce incentive mini-grants in the amount of \$5,000 each for establishment of new Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Academies during school year 2012-2013. Upon approval by the Board of Education of the school division's academy application, the grant award will be issued to the school division or regional career and technical education center. Review [Superintendent's Memo #240-12](#) for details.

## CAREER LINKS

### FOCUS ON FINANCE CAREER CLUSTER

- The [Wall Street Journal's](#) career site includes the latest news on financial sector employment, as well as a job search engine.
- [Next Generation Careers](#), from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, lists numerous links for finance careers and related resources.
- [ISEEK](#) provides extensive career information, a career cluster interest assessment, and counselor resources for the Finance Career Cluster.
- [WeUseMath.org](#) includes profiles of finance-related mathematics occupations, including actuary, economist, stockbroker, and quantitative financial market analyst. For each profile, a downloadable PDF flyer is available that contains factual career information and citations to explore.
- James Madison University offers a [Career Guide to JMU Majors](#), including a major in quantitative finance.

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The [National Financial Capability Challenge](#) describes the U.S. Treasury Department's financial competition for secondary students and offers lessons plans and resources for teachers.
- The [Governor's Challenge for Economics and Personal Finance](#) provides an opportunity for an online and live competition that is open to teams of high school students across the commonwealth. There is no charge to compete.
- [Stock Market Game™](#) is an online education program used to help teach math, social studies, business, economics, and language skills while focusing on the importance of long-term saving and investment. Students in grades 4-12 participate in teams and manage a simulated investment portfolio. Visit [the site](#) for important dates and registration information.
- The Virginia Council on Economic Education annually rewards teachers who demonstrate creativity and commitment to economic education in their classrooms. There are several ways for outstanding teachers to be recognized, including the [Outstanding Economic Educator](#) and several [Excellence in Economic Education Awards](#) categories.
- [LifeSmarts...The Ultimate Consumer Challenge](#) is an educational program that develops the consumer and marketplace skills of high school students in a fun way and rewards them for the knowledge they gain. The program complements any high school curriculum and can be used as an activity for classes, groups, clubs and community organizations.

- [LifeSmarts Daily Calendars](#) provide one challenge question related to the monthly topic area for each school day. Use the calendar questions to spur discussion in class by asking one question per day, develop a mini quiz that you give once per week, or run a simulated LifeSmarts competition in class once per month in preparation for the [Virginia LifeSmarts competition](#).
- The **Lead2Feed** Student Leadership program was created by the Lift a Life Foundation and the USA TODAY Charitable Foundation with assistance from the Yum! Foundation to encourage middle and high school students to hone leadership skills through launching a service-learning project that solves hunger issues. The program includes a 10-lesson, standards-based curriculum on the topic of leadership, based on David Novak's book, *Taking People With You*. The electronic edition of *USA TODAY* will also accompany the curriculum. Prizes and teacher incentives worth over \$500,000 will be awarded to winning teams for their hunger charity. For teacher registration and additional information, go to [Lead2Feed](#) or contact Debby Dodge at [ddodge@usatoday.com](mailto:ddodge@usatoday.com)
- Sign up to receive a complimentary classroom newspaper program from the USA TODAY Charitable Foundation and/or one of their education partners. This program includes student licenses for the electronic (digital) edition of *USA TODAY*. The grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Recipients will be notified based on grant availability. **To qualify for a newspaper grant, you MUST teach an accredited classroom course.** ([Click here for details](#) about the Confirmation Form.)

## INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- The [Center for Economic Education](#) at James Madison University presents links to high school lesson plans on basic economics topics.
- In [econedlink](#), the Council for Economic Education offers access to its large library of K–12 online economics lessons.
- [Teaching Money Virginia](#) provides a database of lessons, speakers, classroom extensions, and other instructional resources to support the Commonwealth's Economics and Personal Finance standards.
- [federalreserveeducation.org](#) provides lesson plans, games, simulations, publications, and more.
- [Money Lesson Plans](#) consists of instructional resources on spending and managing money.
- [PBS Teachers](#) offers lesson plans and other resources on various aspects of [economics](#) and [finance](#) for grades 9-12.
- Habitat for Humanity has developed several finance-based lesson plans, including [Financial Matters](#), in which students learn about personal finance by creating a board game and [Financing Change](#), in which students explore the concept of microfinance and its role in supporting home improvement for people in other countries.
- [Thirteen Ed Online](#) offers numerous lessons for financial education at middle and high school levels.
- [SCORE History/Social Science](#) presents teaching units contributed by California teachers of Grade 12 Basic Economic Principles.
- [What's Up in Finance?](#) offers games, videos, and career links for students, as well as lesson plans, a teacher's guide, and other resources for educators.
- [MoneyInstructor.com](#) presents accounting lesson plans and worksheets.
- Individual lesson plans on finance topics include [Capitalism & Consumer Spending](#), an exploration of the rise in American industry and consumerism during the 1920s; [Government Lesson Plans from Maryland](#), introductory lesson on monetary policy; and [Critical Consumerism](#), a lesson about the influence of advertisements on spending.
- [Understanding Taxes](#) is an Internal Revenue Service site in English and Spanish to help students grasp the hows and whys of taxes. It includes activities, tutorials, simulations, and assessments.
- [Insurance Information Institute](#) includes fact sheets and videos for a variety of [Insurance Topics](#); industry press releases; and a downloadable [Insurance Handbook](#) covering the basics of auto, life, and small business insurance.
- [Financial Planning Association](#) provides information on the role of financial plans and planners and links for consumers, including Life Goals, Life Crises, Find a Planner, and Tools & Resources.

For more information, contact Judith Sams, editor, Office of Career and Technical Education Services, at [cte@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:cte@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at 804-225-2052.